

Robert Harcourt Burrage was born in Davidson, Saskatchewan, on 18 March 1920. He spent his early years with his two brothers on the family ranch near town. Bob received his elementary education in Regina and Disley, Saskatchewan, but completed his High School in Vancouver, British Columbia. After serving in the R.C.A.F. (1940-1945) as a wireless operator, air gunner and pilot, he embarked on a university education in entomology at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. During those years, his summer employment included working on a farm in Ontario, as a student assistant involved in spruce budworm research with the Ontario Department of Forestry, and as a research assistant on insect pests of alsike clover for the Province of Ontario. These



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applied experiences provided him with a solid background for his future career in economic entomology. From the University of Guelph, Bob went directly to Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, to commence his doctoral studies. During his tenure as a graduate student, he was employed as a research assistant and, between terms of academic studies, conducted research on insect pests of field crops. Bob graduated with a PhD in insect ecology from Cornell University in 1952. His thesis was titled: "*A statistical study of the problems encountered in sampling populations of European chafer *Amphimallon majalis* (Razoumowsky) larvae in permanent pasture sod*". After graduation, Bob accepted a research position with Agriculture Canada - Saskatoon Research Station in 1953. Here he initiated renewed studies of the biology, and the cultural and chemical control of wireworms in western Canada. Many of his innovative techniques in soil sampling and studies of population dynamics led to more effective suppression and improved control of wireworms. Bob was also involved in developing and implementing effective IPM strategies for flea beetles and other oilseed pests. He went on to become Head of the Entomology Department until his retirement in 1982. He served as President of the Entomological Society of Saskatchewan in 1954 and 1972. Bob was inducted as a *Fellow of the Entomological Society of Canada* in 1975.

Bob's family and friends describe him as 'having a zest for life'. His children remember him as a supportive and generous father, an intelligent, hard-working and compassionate man. Bob was by nature curious and, as a result, he believed in lifelong learning, being an avid reader with many interests. He was known to all as a passionate outdoorsman. He loved exploring the Saskatchewan countryside and delighted in hunting, fishing, camping and canoeing. He was cheerfully outgoing, enjoyed meeting and talking with people and was always prepared to help others in any way that he could. Bob lived his life with the belief that one should give more than they receive. He was a tireless volunteer who, over the years, lent his experience and expertise to many organizations on the local, provincial and national levels. He spent many enjoyable years as an active member of the Riverside Badminton and Tennis Club in Saskatoon.

Bob is survived by his five children, six granddaughters, a brother Doug, a number of nieces and nephews, and many dear friends. He was predeceased by his wife Kit (Kathleen) and brother Dick.

Owen Olfert and John Doane, Saskatoon